Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 OPR-02 DRC-01 /131 W ------ 120591

R 051807Z MAR 74 FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2309

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS VS
SUBJECT: ALLEGED TERRORISM IN LONG KHANH TO RECOVER LAND
GIVEN OVER RESETTLEMENT SITES

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA DATED FEB 28TH IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION:

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REF: BIEN HOA 50

- 1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED COPIES OF THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE MSS IN LONG KHANH ON THE RECENT TROUBLE AT LA NGA RESETTLEMENT SITE WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF PRESS ACCOUNTS AND REFTEL. COPIES ARE BEING FORWARDED TO MINPOL.
- 2. MSS INVESTIGATION WAS LENGTHY AND IN GREAT DETAIL. IT INVOLVED CONFRONTATION OF WITNESSES WHO HAD GIVEN DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS OF THE EVENTS. CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN FROM THESE REPORTS IS THAT PROBLEM CENTERS ON DISPUTES AMONG SQUATTERS WHO WERE OUSTED WHEN RESETTLEMENT SITE WAS ESTABLISHED, BUDDHISTS WHO OCCUPIED RESETTLEMENT SITE, AND CATHOLICS WHO ARE LONG TIME RESIDENTS OF THE AREA. WITNESSES WHO HAD INITIALLY SAID SHOTS WHICH KILLED WOMAN WERE FIRED BY THREE MEN IN A LAMBRETTA CHANGED THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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STORIES WHEN CONFRONTEDWITH WINTESSES WHO SAID THAT LAMBRETTA

ONLY STOPPED ON SIDE OF ROAD WHILE AFIRE FIGHT BETWEEN VC AND LOCAL SECURITY FORCES TOOK PLACE.

3. STORY THAT EMERGES FROM THESE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT APPEARING IN PRESS ACCOUNTS, MOST RECENTLY AP STORY DESCRIBED PARA 3 FEB 19 EA PRESS SUMMARY, STATE 032928. RELIABILITY OF POLICE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS MIGHT OF COURSE BE CHALLENGED BUT WE HAVE NO SPECIAL REASON FOR DOING SO IN THIS CASE. PETERS UNQUOTE

MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, PARAMILITARY FORCES, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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